

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: C & P Telephone Co. Bldg.--Edmondson Dial Center Inventory Number: B-5114
Address: 2837 Edmondson Avenue Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21223 County: Baltimore City
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West
Property Owner: Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. of Maryland Tax Account ID Number: 20022217018A
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: 20
Project: Red Line Corridor Transit Study Agency: Mass Transit Administration
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 8/30/2005
Documentation is presented in: Sanborn maps (1951); Maryland real property tax database; Enoch Pratt Free Library Maryland Room vertical files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

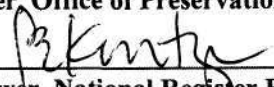
The Chesapeake & Potomac (C & P) Telephone Company's Edmondson Dial Center is a three-and-one-half-story red-brick Art Deco-style commercial-industrial building. It is the only large multistory building on a block between Edmondson Ave., Poplar Grove St., Lauretta Ave., and Franklintown Rd. It is located at the west end of the block at Poplar Grove St. and its primary facades face north across Edmondson Ave. and south across Lauretta Ave. The remainder of the block to the east of the building is occupied by one-story modern buildings and a gas station. The building fronts directly on the sidewalk and has no landscape features, except on its south side where there are some small yard areas fenced with chain-link security fences..

The dial center building has a roughly L-shaped profile, with the shorter leg of the L facing north on Edmondson Ave. The building is faced entirely with dark red brick laid in common bond, and accented by horizontal stone belt courses that extend around the entire building. The belt courses are flush with the walls and are narrowest at the top and widest at the bottom of the facades. There is a narrow stone belt course at the top edge of the building, with a slightly wider course a few feet below, giving the illusion of a cornice. A very wide belt course runs around the top of the first floor, separating the first floor façade details from the different details above. On the first floor of the building, windows are large, set low and have carved stone molding around

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MHT Comments:


Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services


Reviewer, National Register Program

7/26/06
Date

8/7/06
Date

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hem. The main entrance facing Edmondson Ave. has a wider, recessed door surround and a large transom with grillwork above the solid doors. The words "Telephone Building" are engraved in the stonework above the door, and a newer Verizon sign hangs next to it. The first-floor windows are all bricked in. Above the first floor, windows are arrayed in vertical columns, which are aligned with the openings on the first floor. The window columns are slightly recessed, with vertical "ribs" of ornamental projecting header bricks enhancing the verticality of the arrangement. The windows are average-sized six-over-six metal windows with thin stone slab sills. The Edmondson Avenue façade is five bays wide and the short end of the L, facing west, is three bays deep. At the west end of this section is an additional half-story, which is one bay wide facing the front and three bays deep on the west end. It has a narrow stone band at its roofline and a single three-over-three window at the center of its west façade. On the first floor of this section facing south is a double-leaf door entry. The longer south wing of the building is an additional five bays long and three bays wide on its south end. The secondary south façade has a projecting center section containing the three bays, blank side sections, and a chamfered corner that forms a small tower. The tower has a quarter-story projection above the main roofline and a single bay of windows facing southwest above the entrance door. The entrance is deeply recessed and has a wide stone surround below the broad belt course. In front of the entrance is a chain-link enclosure, and chain-link security fencing surrounds much of the south façade. The first floor of the south façade has infilled windows, a single metal door, and a flat-roofed projection at basement level with large vents. The east façade of the building, which overlooks the modern one-story commercial strip, is eight bays long.

According to 1951 Sanborn map notations, this building was constructed in 1937, but a cornerstone on the northwest corner of the building says 1947. It was built as a new dial center to support additional telephone exchanges in West Baltimore. As telephones grew in popularity during the first half of the twentieth century and new neighborhoods developed, C & P added new dial centers around the city to handle the increased volume. Little historical information is available on this specific building, although anecdotal information can be gleaned from articles about other C & P buildings in Baltimore. It appears that the Edmondson Dial Center is now used by Verizon, though the recorded owner is still C & P Telephone Company.

The building is well preserved on its upper floors, but has lost some integrity on the first floor due to infill of window spaces and changes to doors. Some of these changes appear to have been made at an early date, probably for security and ventilation purposes to protect delicate equipment housed inside. The simple, elegant design of the building remains effective, and it is a good example of an Art Deco municipal-style building of the mid-twentieth century. The building occupies a prominent position at a busy intersection. Though its setting has changed somewhat with widening of adjacent roads and construction of modern infill next door, it continues to tower above the surrounding two-story rowhouse neighborhoods as it did originally. It appears to remain in use as part of the infrastructure of today's telephone system, but is a reminder of the older trunk line system. The C & P Telephone Building--Edmondson Dial Center is recommended eligible for the NRHP.

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Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

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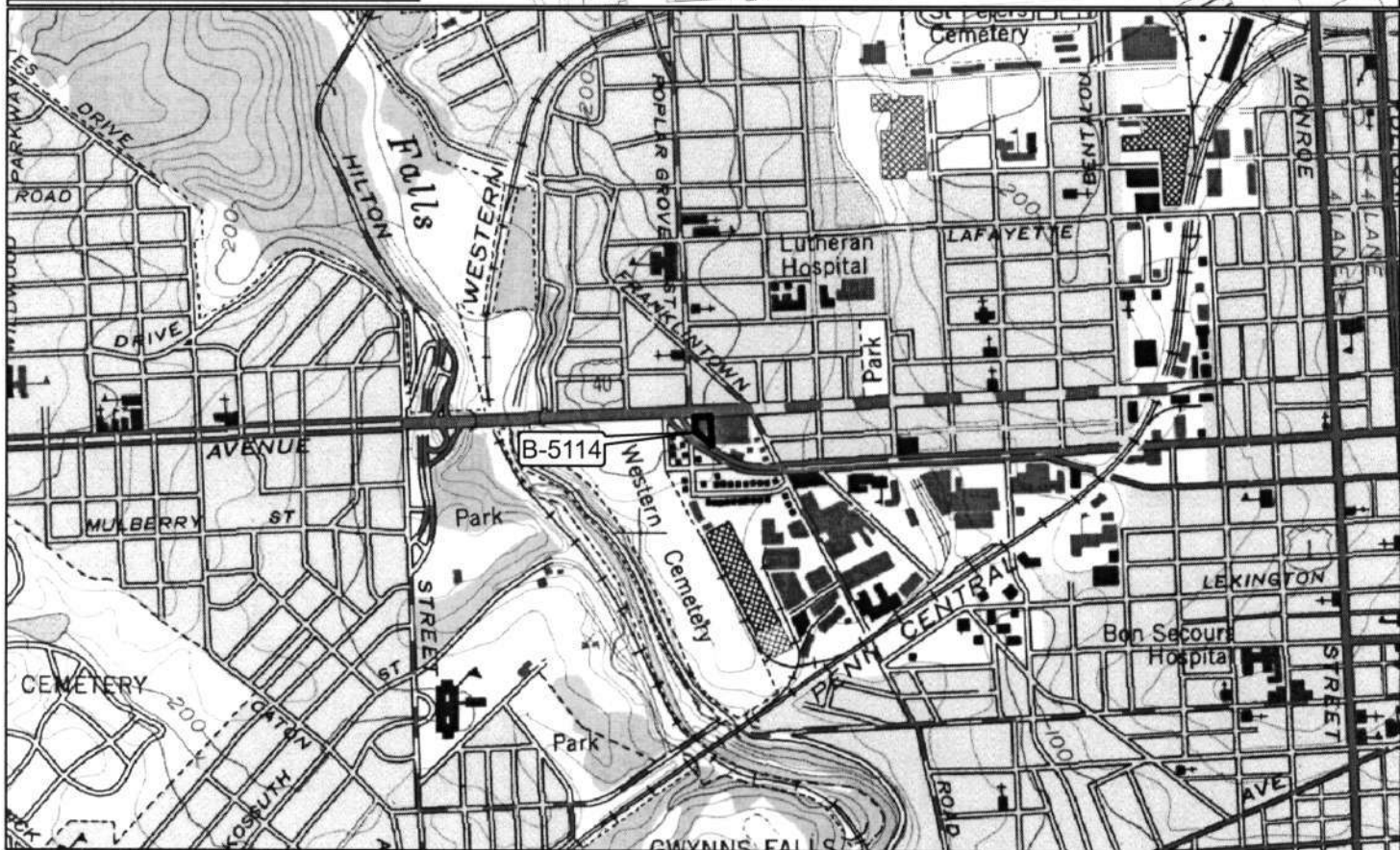
Date



Chesapeake & Potomac
Telephone Building --
Edmondson Dial Center
2837 Edmondson Ave.
MIHP#: B-5114

Baltimore
West

B-5114
Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Building, Edmondson Dial Center
2837 Edmondson Avenue
Block 2217 Lot 018A
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad.





B-5114

Chesapeake + Potomac Telephone Bldg, Edmonston Dial Ctr.

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

6/15/2005

MD SHPO

View to SW

1 of 3

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B-5114

Chesapeake + Potomac Telephone Bldg; Edmonson Dial Gr.

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

6/15/2005

MD SHPO

View to E

#2 of 3

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B-5114

Chesapeake + Potomac Telephone Bldg, Edmonston Dial Ctr.

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

6/16/2005

MD SHPO

View to N

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